

A new subspecies of the Cape Lycaenid *Poecilmitis felthami* (Trimen)*

By C. G. C. DICKSON

**Zeritis felthami* Trimén, Trans. ent. Soc. Lond., 1904, p. 233, pl. 19, figs. 2, 2a.

This is a small race which has been found in several localities to the east of Cape Town, and differs consistently in several respects from *P. felthami felthami*. A short description of it is given hereunder.

Poecilmitis felthami dukei subsp. nov.

Male.

The forewing is more convex along the costal margin than is usually the case in the nominate race.

Upperside.

Forewing. Area 1b normally without any black spotting apart from the black submarginal marking (one to three spots are often present in area 1b, in the nominate race).

Hindwing. Black spotting of postmedian series always incompletely developed, especially in areas 2 and 3; the spot in area 4 the largest of the series. Submarginal marking above vein 4 in the form of a solid broad streak not broken up into separate spots; the submarginal spots in areas 2 and 3 very often minute or absent (this sometimes being so in the nominate race also), but one in area 1c near anal-angle always present and often quite of normal size. There is no dark streak closing cell, as is frequently the case in typical *P. felthami*.

Cilia often lighter, intermittently, than in nominate race, but in some examples equally dark.

Underside.

Forewing. Submarginal and subapical (and, to some extent, costal) areas more fawn-coloured than in typical *P. felthami*.

Hindwing. More fawn-coloured than in nominate race and its outer half with a broad pale zone of an almost whitish tint, but with a diffuse warm-brown patch within this zone in areas 4 and 5.

Length of forewing: 10-12.5 mm. (11.25 mm., in holotype).

Female.

The costal margin tends to be more convex in this sex, too.

Upperside.

Forewing. The very small spot in cell which may be present in nominate race**, and first spot from base in area 1b, absent in present race. Submarginal black border without (or virtually without) orange markings between it and wing margin, near apex.

Hindwing. Spots on main surface present as in nominate race apart from spot, or streak, closing cell; those of postmedian series in areas 2 and 4 always larger than the rest. A solid black streak submarginally above vein 3, as in the male; the submarginal spots below this point tending to be somewhat reduced in size, but the one near anal-angle always

**There is no such spot in the ♀ allotype of *P. felthami felthami*, or in any of the three other females in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History). (G. E. T.)

well developed.

Cilia as in male and varying in different specimens.

Underside.

Both wings essentially as in the male.

Length of forewing: 12.25-13.5 mm. (13 mm., in allotype).

In both sexes the underside of the body and the legs are distinctly lighter and more whitish than in the nominate race.

♂ Holotype, CAPE PROVINCE: Roodeberg near Vink, Robertson Karroo, 24.xi.1966 (C. G. C. Dickson), B.M. Reg. No. Rh. 18517,

♀ Allotype, data as holotype, B.M. Reg. No. Rh. 18518.

Paratypes presented to British Museum (Natural History), CAPE PROVINCE: as holotype, 24.xi.1966, 1♂ 1♀; 15.iii.1965, 5♂ 3♀; 21.iv.1964, 2♂.

Paratypes in the author's collection, CAPE PROVINCE. as holotype, 1♂; 12.x.1950 (and A. J. H. Duke), 2♂; Montagu Baths, iii.1927 (C.G.C.D.) 1♀; Bosch Kloof, foot of Kwadouws Mountains, 23.xii.1963 (C.G.C.D.) 1♀

The differences which are apparent in this butterfly are sufficiently marked as to suggest the possibility of its eventually proving to be a separate species. When comparing the male genitalia of the two butterflies some difference has been observed in at least the aedeagus, juxta and valves, while the relative proportions of some of the parts of the genitalia have not been quite the same in each insect.

It was first realised that this insect was distinct from *P. felthami felthami* when Mr. A. J. H. Duke and the writer each secured a male specimen on one of the rocky foothills of the Roodeberg, not far from the Worcester-Mossel Bay railway line, on the date given above. In this spot the butterfly seems to be very localised, but occurs in some numbers where it is found, flying actively for short distances close to the ground and often alighting on the ground or the low scattered shrubs of Karroo type which are present here.

Specimens which were procured at Still Bay by Mr. K. M. Pennington appear to have much in common with the Roodeberg ones.

Notes on the early stages of the typical race, with figures, by the late Gowan C. Clark and the present writer, were published in the *Annals of the South African Museum*, Vol. XXXII, Pt. 6, 1940.

The writer is greatly indebted to Mr. G. E. Tite for perusing the manuscript before its publication.

"Blencathra", Cambridge Avenue, St. Michael's Estate, Cape Town.

Notes on Entomological Excursions during 1966

By S. WAKELY

These notes are arranged in chronological order and are an account of the more successful and interesting of my entomological excursions during the year 1966.

April 23.—The South London Entomological and Natural History Society held a field meeting to Ockham Common on this date which I was pleased to attend. Although rather early in the year, a search was made for the larvae of *Parascotia fuliginaria* L. and it was not long before we were successful. They were found under fallen fir trees and old logs,